



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

ICE DEPORTS 74 NIGERIANS, MOST WITH CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS *Total Buffalo Removals in January Reaches 188*

BUFFALO, N.Y. -- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced today the successful removal of 74 Nigerians from the United States in an operation from the Niagara Falls International Airport. Many of the Nigerians have significant criminal convictions, including sex crimes, drug crimes, violent assaults and serious fraud crimes. Canadian authorities also placed 11 Nigerians on the flight, which departed Wednesday evening for the flight to Lagos, Nigeria. After turning the individuals over to Nigerian authorities the flight departed to return to the United States.

Forty-six of the individuals removed from the United States have serious criminal convictions, including; assault (6), sex crimes (3), drug convictions (20), fraud (13), and larceny (4). The remaining 28 individuals were removed for immigration violations.

James J. Creahan, acting Field Office Director for ICE in Buffalo said this removal operation is an excellent example of how ICE protects the security and public safety of America by removing dangerous criminals. "The criminals we have removed prey on citizens and immigrants who are trying to raise families and contribute to our society. Our officers take very seriously their responsibility to protect public safety by removing these individuals who create crime and ignore our nation's immigration laws."

Among those removed on the Nigerian flight were:

- A man with a conviction for Sexual Assault of a 14-year-old victim.
- A man with a federal conviction for importing heroin into the United States.
- Another individual with a state court conviction for the distribution and sale of crack/cocaine.

The Nigerians came from various locations around the country and were staged at the Buffalo Federal Detention Facility in Batavia, NY. Canadian immigration authorities worked with ICE to place eleven Nigerians being deported from Canada on the aircraft.

The 74 individuals removed today bring the number of removals from the Buffalo Detention and Removal Office in January to 188. Of the total number of removals 96 had criminal convictions and 92 were removed for immigration violations.

Sixty-six of the total removals came directly from New York State prisons as part of the cooperative effort between the state Department of Corrections and ICE. The operation to remove foreign criminals from New York State prisons is part of the national Institutional Removal Program (IRP) and is a priority of ICE's Detention and Removal Program. Creahan pointed out that IRP program works in conjunction with New York Corrections officials to identify and remove people who have committed serious crimes in the Empire State.

ICE officers administered the removals from the Buffalo field office of ICE's Detention and Removal Operations (DRO). The Buffalo office detains illegal aliens for a number of ICE offices in the region at the Federal Detention Facility in Batavia, N.Y.

The January removals included individuals from 14 different countries, including Nigeria, Dominican Republic, Colombia, El Salvador, Haiti, United Kingdom, Trinidad, Guyana, Morocco, Jamaica, Mexico, Venezuela, Russia, and Pakistan.

ICE, the largest investigative agency in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), is committed to restoring integrity to the nation's immigration system by targeting violators – with a special focus on criminal and fugitive aliens who pose a threat to public safety. Removing criminal aliens from the United States is a part of a comprehensive law enforcement approach to homeland security.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.